GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:561
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001
JAUNDICE/HEPATITIS
SUSHILA SAROJ

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been considerable increase in the number of Jaundice patients in the country particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to make Hepatitis vaccination compulsory; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)to(d): The reported cases and deaths due to viral hepatitis in the country including Delhi during the period 1997-99 are on the declining trend. The major cause of jaundice is viral hepatitis A,B,C,D,E and G.Prevention and control of hepatitis A and E occurring due to feco-oral transmission are effected through provision of safe drinking water supply, improvement in environmental sanitation, food and personal hygiene. The following measures have been taken to control water borne hepatitis infection:

- Centrally sponsored Rural Sanitation Programme and Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programmes are under implementation in the States under the Minimum Needs Programme to cover the rural population.The concept of the programme includes personal hygiene, home sanitation, school sanitation, safe drinking water, garbage and excreta disposal and waste water management. Similar programmes are under implementation in selected towns in the States having population less than 20000 with high incidence of water borne diseases.

Hepatitis B.C and D are essentially blood borne infections.They are transmitted by infected blood and blood products through transfusions, dialysis, contaminated syringes and needles, pricks of skin, handling of infected blood, accidental inoculation of minutes quantities of blood which may occur during surgical and dental procedures, immunization, traditional tattooing, ear/nose piercing, ritual circumcision, acupuncture, etc., accidental percutaneous inoculations by shared razors and tooth brushes, spread of infection from HIV carrier mother to babies and sexual contact.The following steps have been taken for controlling the spread of blood borne hepatitis.

- Guidelines have been issued for mandatory testing of blood in all blood banks.
- Central Government hospital personnel at high risk are immunized against Hepatitis-B.State Governments have also been advised to take similar steps.
- IEC campaigns have been launched for promotion of safe sex and regarding the dangers of using unsterilised syringes and needles under the National AIDS Control Programme.
- Guidelines have been issued to all State Health Authorities for use of separate syringes and needles for each injection.
- Guidelines have been issued for disposal of used syringes and needles to prevent re-use.

A pilot project for introduction of Hepatitis-B vaccine in the Immunization Programme in 15 cities and 32 districts is under consideration of Government of India.